

OGC REVIEW COMPLETED

23 July 1954

Memorandum for: The Director of Central Intelligence

Subject: Comments to the Bureau of the Budget
on S. J. Res. 96.

1. The Bureau of the Budget has requested the views of this Agency on S. J. Res. 96, a bill to strengthen the foreign relations of the United States by establishing a Commission on Governmental Use of International Telecommunications. The text of the bill and the Committee reports are attached herewith as Tab A.

2. The bill provides for a 9-member Commission: 5 members to be appointed by the President; 2 members to be appointed by the President of the Senate; and 2 members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House. The Commission is directed (Section 9) to study the objectives, operations and effectiveness of U. S. information programs with respect to the development of techniques, methods and programs for expanded and more effective operations through the use of foreign telecommunications. Inherent in the bill is the possibility of linking the United States with other parts of the world by communications which could be used for television and exploring the possibility for establishing international cooperation in this field.

3. This bill is not an Administration bill. It was introduced by Senator Nicholson with bi-partisan support, in part as a result of his investigations of the Information Administration on which he had reported that the Information Administration had "paid little attention to new telecommunications methods" for the exchange of international information. In addition, General McChalland informs me that there is some evidence that the bill was a result of lobbying activities of some promoters who were desirous of building a television chain in the Pacific.

4. When Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Wiley sought our views on this bill a year ago, AD/Coms called the attention of this office to the serious security difficulties inherent in Section 10 of the bill, which provides this Commission with power to subpoena witnesses and documents and directs Government agencies to furnish to the Commission such information as the Commission may require. The memorandum from AD/Coms, which is attached herewith as Tab B, pointed out that these sections could be interpreted "to require extensive disclosure of matters which CIA should not disclose." In addition, the Deputy Assistant Director/SI pointed out that the problems which would be considered by the Commission has been recognized in a series of NSC actions and that actions concerning

these matters were being coordinated through the Office of the Assistant Director of CMI. That memorandum, which is attached as Tab C, also pointed out that the Soviet jamming techniques in this field, as well as other telecommunications problems, would be involved and that the addition of this new Commission to the field would only add confusion and complexity to an already extremely difficult situation.

5. In view of the fact that S.J.Res. 96 passed the Senate in 1953 before we could comment to Chairman Wiley, it was suggested that I communicate our views informally to the Bureau of the Budget, which I did in November 1953. I pointed out to them that CIA was concerned about the Commission on the basis of security of information, but that we could take no open position as its establishment was a policy matter in which we had no part. As opposition to the bill was appearing in other parts of the Government, the Bureau of the Budget so informed the White House, and the White House undertook to have the measure bottled up in the House. However, a signal was mixed somewhere, and the bill passed the House on the Consent Calendar on 19 July. The AD/Commo and AD/SI reiterated to me their concern regarding the problems that would be raised if this bill were signed by the President, in the light of the sensitive information which the Commission might require. The Bureau of the Budget, as noted above, have now requested a formal expression of our views, and it is therefore recommended that I be authorized to forward these views as set forth in the letter at Tab D, with particular emphasis on the last paragraph of that letter.

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CONCURRE:

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Assistant Director/Commo

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General Counsel

APPROVED:

Date 23 July 54

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Allen W. Dulles
Director

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